

## What Shade of **GREEN** is Right for You?

- Many types of green infrastructure exist, so it is important to find the right fit for your utility:

- If your facility is a tall building without a great deal of property, consider a **green roof retrofit**.
- If you have a large parking area, consider **permeable pavement** and **greening your parking** area.
- If you have sizeable grounds, consider installing **rain gardens**.

You may also consider the following types of green infrastructure for your facility, or you can advocate for the inclusion of green infrastructure provisions in the municipal code of your municipality:

**Vegetated Swales** are sloping depressions with vegetation or grass that can treat stormwater runoff and allow it to infiltrate.



**Planter boxes** are containers, often near curbs, with trees and other vegetation that absorb rainwater.

## Other Resources

- *For more information about Green Infrastructure and other ways to promote Sustainable Infrastructure, please visit:*

<http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/>

- *For more information on rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavement/green parking, planter boxes, or vegetated swales, please visit:*

<http://www.epa.gov/greeninfrastructure>



## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

*and your utility*



## How GREEN is your facility?

As you renew your permit, think about whether green infrastructure was a consideration when your facility was first constructed & what types of green design features are currently available to you.

Green infrastructure presents a cost-effective and sustainable approach for managing wet weather. Many options exist for green infrastructure retrofits, including: rain gardens, permeable pavement & green parking, & green roofs.



### Why Go GREEN ?

Green infrastructure helps capture & treat stormwater runoff, slow runoff flow & reduce its volume before it enters the sewer system or drinking water supply sources. It can help to prevent costly overflows at wastewater utilities & help you meet NPDES requirements. For drinking water utilities, it can help to prevent contamination events & water quality violations. Green infrastructure can help your utility to save money & be more sustainable.

## Permeable Pavement & Green Parking



Permeable pavement is a type of pavement in which water permeates & can be filtered. It contains various layers & void spaces in between that allow for stormwater storage. There are several different types of permeable pavement.

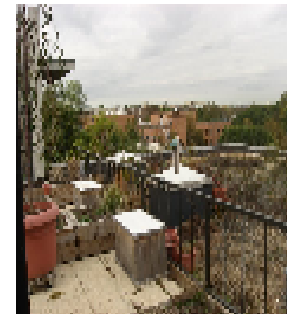
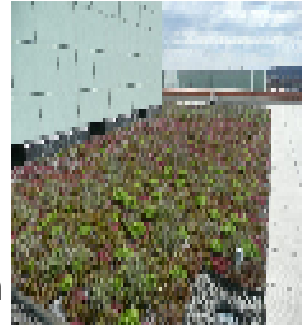
Green parking refers to parking areas that can include permeable pavement, trees & other greenery, & pedestrian and biking infrastructure.

## Rain Gardens

**RAIN GARDENS** are generally small gardens designed to withstand most rainfall events & to clean, filter & absorb stormwater. They typically contain engineered soils, plants that are particularly able to tolerate high water & nutrient volumes, & highly porous plant media underneath. Rain gardens may contain an underdrain that can connect to a storm sewer, or they can be self-contained.

## Green Roofs

Green roofs are fully or partially covered with a vegetated surface. They help to facilitate better stormwater management, through plant evapotranspiration & stormwater storage.



Green roofs contain vegetation, growing media, filter & drainage layers, waterproof membranes & and other support layers that can be installed individually or in grids.

Their benefits include helping to: reduce building heating and cooling costs, increase urban wildlife habitat, and reduce urban heat island effects.



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